

China's Attitude to the Non-Aligned Movement and Its Changes (1992-2021)

-- An investigation centered on "Reference News"

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Abstract

As the largest international organization in developing countries, the Non-Aligned Movement has played an important role in the international arena since its establishment, and has voiced its voice against hegemony and the pursuit of justice. After the end of the Cold War, the Non-Aligned Movement adhered to the purposes and principles of independence, independence and non-group, and emphasized the economic development of the southern countries and the promotion of a fair and reasonable international order. my country became an observer state of the Non-Aligned Movement in 1992, and the two sides established official contacts. By referring to the literal translation, reprinted foreign newspapers and foreign telegrams, we can get a glimpse of the changes in our country's attitude towards the Non-Aligned Movement in different periods after the end of the Cold War.

Keywords

Post-Cold War China non-aligned movement reference news.

1. Introduction

Founded in 1961, the Non-Aligned Movement, as the largest international organization in developing countries, had an important impact on international relations during the Cold War. As the largest developing country in the world, China shares similar historical experiences, common identities, common goals and common interests with the member states of the Non-Aligned Movement [1], and supports the Non-Aligned Movement's anti-imperialist and anti-hegemonic claims . In 1992, my country officially became an observer state of the Non-Aligned Movement and established direct links with the Non-Aligned Movement. In the following years, my country has closely followed the movements of the Non-Aligned Movement. With the international situation and the differentiation of the Non-Aligned Movement itself, my country's attitude towards the Non-Aligned Movement has also changed.

"Reference News" reports mainly focus on the views and propositions of various countries in the world, most of which are directly translated by foreign media. Although the article reports do not directly express our country's position, we can still observe our country's attitude towards the Non-Aligned Movement through the amount of reports in different time periods, the main aspects of concern, and the level of detail in the reports.

2. The First Stage: 1992-1999, Concerns and Expectations Coexist

The bipolar pattern finally came to an end with the disintegration of the Soviet Union, and the Non-Aligned Movement, which was born during the Cold War, faced a new international situation. China became an observer state of the Non-Aligned Movement in 1992 and established official relations with the Non-Aligned Movement. My country is closely following

the existence of the Non-Aligned Movement and needs to know what is going on in the promotion of political fairness and the transition to economic development.

2.1. Concerned about the Survival of the Non-Aligned Movement

"The weakening of colonialism and the confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union provided objective conditions for the formation of the Non-Aligned Movement"[2]. Whether the Non-Aligned Movement without these objective conditions can continue to survive in the new international pattern needs to be closely observe.

The Non-Aligned Movement is an international organization. The changes in its member states and the unity of the member states reflect the strength of the organization's vitality. From 1992 to 1994, "Reference News" paid great attention to this, reporting good news that Thailand, the Philippines and other countries joined the Non-Aligned Movement[3]; on the other hand, the Yugoslav League civil war involved complex ethnic and religious issues, and Muslims' The large number of deaths has sparked outrage in Islamic countries. Reference News also reported on the discord among member states, continuing to report on Iran's calls to expel Yugoslavia from the Non-Aligned Movement and compromise on Yugoslavia's qualifications. "The OIC contact group agreed to compromise so as not to divide the Non-Aligned Movement," AFP reported.[4] On the other hand, the good operation of international organizations is inseparable from grasping and adapting to the new international situation. "Reference News" has paid close attention to whether the Non-Aligned Movement can adapt to the new international pattern. In 1992, during the tenth summit of the Non-Aligned Movement, "Reference News" quoted United Press International as reporting: The Non-Aligned Movement must find a new direction, or it will perish. According to the report, the Jakarta summit "must begin to eliminate years of differences and divert attention from the Cold War in order to form a common position on issues such as trade and security, otherwise it will be swept into the garbage heap of history" [5]. United Press International's report article is very sharply worded, arguing that the Non-Aligned Movement must abandon the old thinking of the Cold War period and take a unified stand to turn its efforts towards the economic and security fields, which is related to the life and death of the Non-Aligned Movement. In 1994, Reuters reported that it conveyed the attitude of Egyptian leader Mubarak: "In the post-Cold War world, the Non-Aligned Movement must change, otherwise it will not play any role"[6]. After the 1998 Durban summit, Reference News carried AFP news: "The Durban Declaration ... once again sets out a long list of unrealistic hopes and concerns about eradicating poverty, promoting peace, security and The promise of development [7]." Noting that the situation and transformation of the Non-Aligned Movement is not optimistic.

2.2. Support the Creation of A Fair and Reasonable International Order

When Deng Xiaoping met with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in December 1988, he pointed out: "There are two things to be done at the same time in the world, one is to establish a new international political order, and the other is to establish a new international economic order." [8] The end of the Cold War , the end of the US-Soviet bipolar pattern. In order to adapt to the new changes in international relations after the Cold War, the third generation of the central leadership with Jiang Zemin as the core adhered to and developed Deng Xiaoping's thought on international order, and further elaborated the basic theories and political propositions of the new international order after the Cold War. The construction of a fair and reasonable new international order is inseparable from the joint promotion of the vast number of developing countries. In the 1990s, Reference News also paid great attention to the role of the Non-Aligned Movement as an international organization of the vast number of developing countries in promoting the establishment of a new international order.

Strengthening the status of the United Nations and its Security Council in international affairs is an important part of the new international order of Caliber. In the early 1990s, the issue of United Nations reform really became a major concern of the international community [9]. Reference News has been following the efforts of the Non-Aligned Movement in this regard throughout the 1990s. As early as September 1991, Reuters reported that the Non-Aligned Movement demanded reform of the United Nations. In 1992, the AFP news agency was quoted as saying, "The Non-Aligned Movement is working hard to promote a greater democratic spirit in the United Nations and to give the Non-Aligned Movement a more important voice in the United Nations General Assembly through certain channels." [10] 1997, citing Agence France-Presse, a Non-Aligned Movement official said: "It is unacceptable to exclude members of the Non-Aligned Movement from the Security Council." [11]"

China has always been with the vast number of developing countries. It is the common pursuit of China and the Non-Aligned Movement countries to promote a more just and reasonable reform of the United Nations and to establish a just and reasonable new international order.

2.3. Pay Attention to the Economic Turn of the Non-aligned Movement

After the end of the Cold War, my country faced a complex and severe international environment and development dilemma. In 1992, the 14th National Congress of the Communist Party of China pointed out that "to advance the great cause of socialism with Chinese characteristics in the 1990s, the most fundamental thing is to adhere to the party's basic line, speed up reform and opening up, and concentrate on economic construction." [12]. Economic construction has become an important goal of China. The Non-Aligned Movement is also faced with the goals of addressing development issues and narrowing the gap between the North and the South.

In 1992, "Reference News" quoted the "Jakarta Post" article, arguing that the North-South conflict was replacing the East-West conflict, "Faced with the pressure from the north, the non-aligned countries should cooperate closely and unite to adopt a common strategy and formulate appropriate policies to adapt to The development of a globalized world economy. [13]" In 1993, quoted by Agence France-Presse, the Non-Aligned Movement urged the strengthening of North-South dialogue to close the gap between politics and economy. The Indonesian President, who was Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement at the time, was on the move "in order to articulate the intention of strengthening the Non-Aligned Movement's desire to strengthen the North-South dialogue" [14]. In 1995, the Colombian "Times" article was quoted, which enthusiastically envisaged the non-aligned movement member states "to establish a free trade area by far the largest on earth", and to make political and trade policies more inclined to the "south" [15]. In October of the same year, the 11th Non-Aligned Summit's emphasis on defending the economic interests of the countries of the South was reported. Suharto and Samper advocated strengthening coordination and cooperation measures to advance South-South relations.

3. The Second Stage: From 2001 to 2010, The Degree of Concern Weakened

The Non-Aligned Movement is loose and has no fixed permanent institutions. It uses more informal systems and relies more on the establishment of inter-state relations. However, the countries that once played an important role in the Non-Aligned Movement no longer play an important role. The Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was divided into five parts in 1992, and the Yugoslavia was weak, making it difficult to shoulder the heavy responsibility of the former Yugoslavia. Due to its special geographical conditions and cultural background, Egypt turned to organizations such as the League of Arab States and the African Union. Although India is a member of the Non-Aligned Movement, its foreign policy has its own characteristics. The

diplomatic purpose of seeking the status of a major power and the dominance of the South Asian subcontinent is sustainable and long-term. The Non-Aligned Movement lacks cohesive and influential member states to play a leading role, and its loose structure makes it difficult to achieve effective synergy among all member states.

After entering the 21st century, the world's multi-polarization continues to develop, but the United States is still the only superpower in the world, has the most powerful economic and military strength in the international community, and can greatly influence other countries and non-states. The behavior of actors, and even the manipulation of the operation of the international system itself. During the tenure of US President George Bush, he attached too much importance to the hard power of the United States, adopted a unilateral policy in major international events, and repeatedly violated international rules. This is not conducive to building a fair and reasonable international order, and the Non-Aligned Movement is in a difficult situation in an unfavorable international environment.

4. The Third Stage: 2011-2021, Concerned About Hot Issues

At the end of 2010, the "Arab Spring" triggered political turmoil in North Africa and the Middle East. Many political strongmen who had been in power for decades stepped down one after another. Fierce civil wars broke out in Libya and Syria, and the geopolitical situation changed. On the other hand, the Iranian nuclear issue was still unresolved; The full development of regional economic grouping dwarfs the role of the Non-Aligned Movement in the economic field. Reports in the past ten years have rarely mentioned economic appeals, mainly in the role of the Non-Aligned Movement in providing a platform for political communication for member states, most of which is the Non-Aligned Movement's Tehran summit.

4.1. China Attaches Great Importance to the Active Role Played By the Non-aligned Movement in International Affairs

On September 1, 2012, two reports, "Non-Aligned Movement "Seeking Common Ground while Reserving Differences" to Enhance Discourse Power," and "China Attaches Great Importance to Non-Aligned Movement's Active Role in International Affairs", made comments on the spirit of seeking common ground while reserving differences in the final document of the summit. They expressed positive comments, believing that this has laid a foundation for the member states of the Non-Aligned Movement to handle their differences and conduct dialogue in the future, and enhanced the voice of the Non-Aligned Movement. Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxu said in an interview with Xinhua News Agency on August 31 that the Non-Aligned Movement is a symbol of the unity and self-improvement of the vast number of developing countries, and an important force for maintaining world peace and promoting common development. As an observer of the Non-Aligned Movement, China attaches great importance to the organization's role in international affairs.

4.2. The Degree of Emphasis Has Decreased, And More Emphasis Has Been Placed on International Hotspot Issues

"Reference News" published the article "News Analysis: Three Highlights of the 16th Non-Aligned Movement Summit" on August 26, 2012, pointing out that the three highlights of the 16th Non-Aligned Movement Summit are: The Syrian issue, the Iranian nuclear issue, and Egyptian President Morsi will attend the Tehran summit. Both the Syrian issue and the Iranian nuclear issue are hot issues in the Middle East, involving multiple entanglements and conflicts of interest. The attendance of Egyptian President Morsi is the first visit by a president to Iran since the outbreak of the Islamic Revolution in Iran more than 30 years ago. In addition, "Reference News" published "Xinhua International Times Commentary: Iran Attempts to Use the "Non-Aligned East Wind" to decompress and support Syria" published on August 27, 2012,

and "Iran will be held during the Non-Aligned Movement Summit" published on August 28, 2012. Articles such as "Proposing a Solution to the Syrian Crisis" also focus on regional hotspot issues such as Syria.

The host of this time, Iran, has repeatedly stated that the main topics of the summit are the Iranian nuclear issue and the Syrian issue. The 16th Non-Aligned Movement Summit Closed Senior Officials' Meeting was reported. Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mehman Paraste said at a press conference that day that nuclear disarmament will be one of the most important topics of the summit. 1. Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Akhundzad said at a press conference after the senior officials meeting that the draft final document called for the reduction of weapons of mass destruction, the promotion of nuclear disarmament and the denuclearization of the Middle East. It can be seen that the main topics of the series of meetings held in Tehran this time are the hot issues of geopolitics in the Middle East.

In addition, throughout the past ten years of reporting, most of the space is focused on the 2012 Tehran Non-Aligned Movement conference series. In the subsequent Non-Aligned Movement conferences, only a brief report was made on the 17th Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement in Algiers in 2014, and there were no relevant articles on the subsequent summit summits. It can be seen that our country is highly concerned about the Tehran Summit, which focuses on discussing hot issues in the Middle East, and not only attaches importance to the Non-Aligned Movement itself, but also to the discussion and resolution of hot issues on the platform of the Non-Aligned Movement, as well as the trend of geopolitics.

4.3. Pay Attention to the Non-alignment Policies of Important Countries of the Non-aligned Movement

In June 2012, "Reference News" quoted the contents of Japan's "Diplomatist" magazine, noting that an article published by an Indian think tank suggested that India make "strategic autonomy" the cornerstone of its foreign policy, which actually means not participating in any major power group in international politics. In addition, it was noted that Prime Minister Singh proposed a foreign policy strategy of keeping equal distance from the United States and China [16]. This move is more like a return to the traditional policy of non-alignment; Reference News again quoted an article on the website of the Japanese Diplomatic Scholar magazine in November 2014, saying that "one of the legacies that Modi is really gradually destroying is the tacit disapproval of India's foreign policy. Alignment stance", arguing that Modi "will cooperate with anyone in order to safeguard India's interests. [17]"; Reference News in May 2018 quoted an article in The Hindu, saying that "the second time the Indian Prime Minister has Absent from the Non-Aligned Movement summit, solidarity with other developing countries is no longer a foreign policy priority for New Delhi"[18]. During Modi's period, he distanced himself from the Non-Aligned Movement, and he favored both sides among the major powers of the United States and Russia. He was more inclined to maintain the hegemony of South Asia and increase its international influence.

The main objects of analysis in these reports are India's policies and policy shifts in handling relations with China, the United States, Russia and other major powers. There are indeed concerns about India's relationship with the Non-Aligned Movement, but it is more about India's foreign policy as a geopolitical power.

5. Conclusion

By sorting out the development process of the Non-Aligned Movement after the Cold War and observing the dynamic changes in China's attitude towards the Non-Aligned Movement in the past 30 years, it can be seen that since the end of the Cold War and China officially became an observer state of the Non-Aligned Movement, the relationship between the two has entered a

new stage. new stage of development. Since its establishment, the Non-Aligned Movement has maintained the overall interests of developing countries, advocated the democratization of international relations and the establishment of a new international political and economic order. It still has a strong vitality to this day.

International exchanges are based on common interests and common goals, and then achieve mutual support in international affairs. From the reports of Reference News for nearly three decades, we can see that China is continuously paying attention to and supporting the Non-Aligned Movement, and at the same time making better use of the largest international organization in developing countries to serve China's foreign strategy. need.

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